



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

OCTOBER 3, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER

PHONE: (631) 696-6500

BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$158K GRANT TO BLUE POINT FIRE DISTRICT

Will Purchase New Safety Gear to Protect First Responders and Community

BLUE POINT, NY: Congressman Tim Bishop announced a big win for the Blue Point Fire District last week in a phone call to Walter Dunn, III, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The grant for \$158,261 will be used to purchase 35 complete self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), with a spare air cylinder for each one, and 25 additional face pieces.

"I am very proud of the men and women of the Blue Point Fire District," Bishop stated. "Their hard work and commitment to obtaining this grant will be rewarded with new state of the art technology. This grant will improve our first responders' ability to respond to emergencies, as well as the safety of Blue Point residents."

"I thank Congressman Bishop for his support in Congress for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, his letter to the Department of Homeland Security in support of our application and for his sponsorship of FEMA grant writing workshops at firehouses around the congressional district," Dunn stated. "We attended those workshops, and received guidance on the grant program as well as tips on how to write a grant application. It certainly paid off for us."

This grant will allow the BPFDF to replace all of their current SCBAs, which are not equipped with the necessary features to be compliant with all of the current safety standards, and are not compatible with those used by neighboring districts. Purchasing compliant SCBAs allows the BPFDF to have the safest breathing apparatus available to help the firefighters perform the dangerous jobs of fire fighting and working in other toxic or oxygen-deficient environments.

"This is critical, because if we can't breath then nothing else matters," Dunn stated. "We could have the best bunker gear, nozzles, hoses and trucks but we can't use any of those things effectively if we can't get inside a smoke-filled burning to fight the fire."

The grant was given as part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. In the 108th Congress, Bishop fought to ensure the program was funded at \$750 million, the Administration had attempted to cut the program by \$250 million.

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis to the applicants that most closely address the program's priorities and demonstrate financial need. Funding is available for public education and awareness activities, fire codes enforcement activities, fire inspector certifications, purchase and installation of smoke alarms and fire suppression systems, and arson prevention and detection activities.

#